

#ICantBreatheAtNWMSU

4:55 PM · Jun 5, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

7 Retweets 140 Likes

Jenni

@JenniferGtz28

In my strategies class for pre-calculus I was one of two hispanics in the class, the rest of the class was white. The entire semester two boys in my class constantly called me Chihuahua, instead of by my name. To this day, I am ashamed that I never spoke up. #ICantBreatheAtNWMSU

11:08 AM · Jun 5, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

5 Retweets 28 Likes

KENNY

@KennyJay38

My freshman year at northwest one of the girls from my dorm referred to me and my friends as "the n****rs from her floor" at a party. I reported it but I honestly can't say if anything happened to her.

StricklyBusiness

@BrooksRstl

Going into senior year at NWMSU, while walking across campus a pick up truck with three white guys in to drove by and shouted "Ni**er, no one else was around just me. In addition my car was keyed a day later #blackatnwmsu

Jun 5, 2020 · Twitter for Android

Johnson

@Johnson123

Dr. Andre Brown

@DrAndreBrown

Constant microaggressions, inaction on issues related to diversity, and an environment that is openly hostile towards people of color is the reason, why I left NWMSU. #ICantBreatheAtNWMSU

9:25 AM · Jun 5, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

6 Retweets 33 Likes

Northwest Missouri State University

@NWMSTATE · Jun 1, 2020

@presidentjazz has released a statement addressing a video depicting a prospective Northwest student: bit.ly/2XIFmze

7:24 PM · Jun 3, 2020 · TweetDeck

2 Likes

@_summer514

#BlackAtNWMSU a girl was in a school group chat saying n****ER and then tried to say she was being hacked.....we never heard about how they handled the situation

MAKAYLA POLAK & RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

The video and the aftermath

Eight months after insensitive video, University grapples with its legacy

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

As Matt Baker sat in his office Jan. 7, tucked near the far corner of Northwest’s Student Engagement Center on the second floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union, the University’s assistant vice president of Student Affairs describe the events of the previous year in contradicting terms. For Baker, 2020 had been, at differing times and to varying degrees, both easy and hard. As Baker sat there in this office, sporting a gray face covering adorned with Northwest’s logo, it had been nearly eight months since a video that appeared to depict an

incoming Northwest freshman reenacting the May 25 event that killed George Floyd in Minneapolis was posted to Twitter last summer, less than a week after his death. It had been 220 days since the University — facing a public relations nightmare and calls for the student’s expulsion before her physical arrival on campus — issued a statement condemning the video, but confirming the student would be allowed to enroll in classes in the fall, prompting backlash from students, staff and alumni. And it had been 28 days since Northwest’s Board of Regents approved an update to the University’s Student Code of Conduct pol-

icy that ultimately couldn’t erase or undo the events that took place over the summer, even if it had been in place when the video first went viral. “We don’t just get to make whatever policy we think is right,” Baker told The Missourian, reflecting on the months-long process that culminated in the December policy update. “We’re guided by the state and the federal government.” “All of it is —,” he added later, pausing for a moment between words. “It’s very hard.” In some ways, the video and Northwest’s response to it served as a watershed for the University, a turning point in conversations

about race. When the video first surfaced, the country at large was engaged in a reckoning over race and racism, one that came in response to the killing of Floyd. The infamous video of the incoming freshman — as horrifying as it might have been — forced the University into its own period of reflection and evaluation, one that has given way to action. “What’s changed is, the conversation (regarding racism) has happened more often, more robustly and more universally on campus since that day,” Baker said, referring to May 29, the day the insensitive video surfaced. “I’ve been around for a lot of protests and a

lot of moments, and this one is different.” Amid the backlash aimed toward the University’s response to the video, dozens of students and alumni of all races shared personal and anecdotal experiences of racism and microaggressions on Twitter, marking their posts with hashtags like “#ICantBreatheAtNWMSU,” “BlackAtNWMSU” and “#BlackInMaryville.” And while the usage of the hashtags has been almost nonexistent since June, their existence seems to have played a substantive role in shaping the University’s subsequent action.

SEE CONDUCT | A4

Vaccine availability limited in county as state supply shrinks

MADELINE MAPES
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

As Gov. Mike Parson announced the opening of Phase 1B, Tier 1 and 2 of the COVID-19 distribution plan, Tom Patterson -- the Nodaway County public health administrator -- noted that vaccine availability looks slim in the county. Patterson said the main challenge the Missouri will face among the opening of Phase 1B will be the availability of vaccines, a common theme among the opening of new tiers. “We weren’t expecting them to do this at this time,” Patterson said. “Vaccines aren’t widely available.” In Parson’s announcement, he noted that the state was following recommendations from federal partners and information from stakeholders across the state in regards to the opening of Phase 1B, Tier 1. Parson also announced that the state opened Phase 1B, Tier 2 on Jan. 18. Tier 1 of Phase 1B opened Jan. 14. Patterson noted that there are some areas in Missouri that haven’t received any vaccines since the original distribution in December 2020. Maryville is not one of the areas that Patterson mentioned to have not gotten any vaccines.

He also said the timing involved with the opening of these tiers makes it seem like the vaccines will be available sooner and the distribution will become faster, but this is not the case. According to the CDC, as of Jan. 15 the number of distributed coronavirus vaccines in Missouri is 528,800. “It’s going to get a little bit stressful here for the next month or so,” Patterson said. Patterson continued to emphasize patience with the community. He said the opening of Tiers one and two in Phase 1B was something that the health department was not expecting. The health department will not be able to order anymore vaccines for at least another two weeks due to the federal government’s partnership with pharmaceutical companies to vaccinate long-term health care facilities. According to a KY3 article, Missouri will not be receiving as many COVID-19 vaccines as planned from Operation Warp Speed. The director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services said in the KY3 article, as of Jan. 15, that the state is currently receiving 70,000 to 80,000 vaccines per week, but the state was expecting roughly double that amount.

SEE VACCINE | A4



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

Friends and family remember Morgan McCoy by putting flowers outside of building that used to be The Palms Jan. 7. Three years ago McCoy passed away from a drunk driver crashing into The Palms.

McCoy family, friends reflect on life

HAILEY MACH
News Reporter | @haileymach98

Three years ago, Northwest lost a bright and bubbly person following a devastating accident at a bar. What was originally supposed to be another night out on the town had turned into a tragedy this community would never forget. This year, for the third anniversary of her death, Morgan McCoy’s mother, Brenda McCoy got a special urn for her daughter’s ashes. The mint green glass-blown urn has cherry blossoms that help her daughter’s colorful personality live on. The past couple years, family and friends honored Morgan McCoy on the anniversary of her death and her birthdays. Typically, there would be large gatherings and events like balloon releases and

live bands. “This year was the first year that I did not do anything with her friends, other than getting messages and calls,” Brenda McCoy said. Brenda McCoy spent her time at dinner with friends honoring Morgan McCoy and reminiscing the good times. “I laugh because I think, oh my gosh, only my kid did cartwheels down the aisle at Price Chopper when she would go grocery shopping with me ... and it wasn’t anything unusual,” Brenda McCoy said. Brenda McCoy often looks back on times when her and her daughter had moved to Liberty, Missouri in fifth grade.

SEE MCCOY | A4

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Globally known speaker makes virtual visit

WESLEY MILLER
News Reporter | @wesleymiller360

For the 35th consecutive year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was recognized across the nation — a day dedicated to celebrating long strides toward equality and liberty for the oppressed. Northwest played a role in continuing this tradition for students, forming a week of activities centered around MLK’s legacy.

All activities the week of Jan. 18 are hosted by or include input from the Northwest Diversity and Inclusion Office. There are activities happening Jan. 18-21.

The week began with an MLK Day of Learning available via Zoom between 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 18. Then, at 1 p.m., there was a keynote address given by Eric Thomas through Facebook live on the Northwest Diversity and Inclusion Facebook page.

Thomas is a globally renowned motivational speaker, focused on challenging others to be successful. Thomas grew up in Detroit, Michigan. Originally a high school dropout and homeless, he now has a doctorate in education administration, which he obtained from Michigan State University in 2015, and travels internationally talking to leaders of all sorts about being successful and inclusive.

Justin Mallett, associate provost for Diversity and Inclusion, said it was a no-brainer to bring Thomas in for his speech.

“Eric Thomas is a phenomenal speaker,” Mallett said in an email to The Missourian. “He is the number one motivational speaker in the world.”

Thomas began his address by explaining why we honor and celebrate MLK but also encouraged attendees not to forget the others who all helped with the Civil Rights Movement alongside MLK.

It did not take long for Thomas’ passion on the subject to take hold, and through each point he seemed to become more excited.

Thomas credited much of the progress of the movement to the work done by college students and on college campuses.

“These are the brilliant young people who have strategies, who have ideas, who have passion and most of all they have youth,” Thomas said.

He put even more emphasis on the importance of youth with a little story. When the protests and marches were happening over the past summer, Thomas said he was getting too old to march with them. Thomas said somebody asked him why he wasn’t marching recently, and he said that he doesn’t have that youthful energy anymore. However, he said had he been 10 or 20 years younger, he would’ve been out there marching too.

“I have more wisdom than I have youth right now,” Thomas said.

Thomas said he had a couple points he wanted to hit in his speech. The first being that dreams and goals are backed by considerable action.

The Detroit native said when he travels the nation and goes on different campuses, he notices students have zeal and “are ready to march,” but explains that they can’t just march.

“Your actions have to live up to the march,” Thomas said.

As great as being willing to march is, he said, if you are not focused in school and have low grades then you need to focus on that first.

“You are only as good to the movement as you are to yourself,” Thomas said.

Thomas said MLK, Rosa Parks and others were able to do what they did because of their character elsewhere. He explained there was another woman before Parks who held a similar protest, but was not remembered or recognized as a face of the movement because of different morals than what the movement was really focused on, whereas Parks lived those morals.

What Parks and MLK did was not by chance, Thomas said, it was a strategy and a careful follow-through.

With that, Thomas went into his second point of his speech, that not only is it necessary to have a thought, but executing the thought is also crucial.

“Innovation is rewarding; execution is worship,” Thomas said.



EMMA GOVREAU | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshman Zoey Tensen watches Eric Thomas give a keynote address as a part of the University’s Martin Luther King Day of Learning Jan. 18. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted the event which all occurred online.

cution is worship,” Thomas said.

While he does have a Ph.D., the Michigan native said he does not wear that title or call himself “Dr. Thomas,” but that he realized in America there is a pecking order.

“I understand that the people who succeed are the people who execute,” Thomas said.

Thomas said that at some point in a person’s life, they have to prove they can do more than just talk. He followed that up by noting that after completing those tasks, whether it be a degree or writing a book, people will look at you differently each time.

“When your influence grows, your impact grows,” Thomas said.

Kirayle Jones, executive president of the Student Senate, said he thought Thomas’ speech was phenomenal.

“He was very insightful and helped me to see things in a different light. Honestly, I heard a lot about Dr. Thomas, and I even did a little research on him, and it was everything I expected and some,” Jones said in an email to The Missourian.

Jones said what he really took from Thomas’ speech, as a future educator, was that sometimes students need a little poking and prodding to achieve their goals. He said that as mentors and teachers, their jobs are to create victories for each student.

“We must help them find themselves, and by doing that, other things will fall into place,” Jones said.

Every year that MLK Day is celebrated, it helps remind people of his impact on not only the Civil Rights Movement, but the entire nation.

Mallett said that events like MLK Day and Thomas’ speech give opportunities to learn more about MLK and Black history. He said that in this climate, it is important to be educated on these topics so we can continue making our campus an inclusive campus.

“We need to honor MLK everyday, but this is a day that we can nationally honor a man who wanted to create equality for everyone, believed in inclusion and worked tirelessly to accomplish it,” Mallett said in an email.

Jones said that MLK was the perfect example of hard work and dedication, and that he stuck to his goals. He said he thinks honoring his work, along with others’ work, is the least we can do.

“They stood in the face of violence, destruction, discriminations and demanded equality and justice,” Jones said. “They are the ultimate examples of grit and dedication. We must strive to be like MLK and live a life that supports equality for all individuals.”

Several events throughout the week will continue to honor MLK. From 4-6 p.m. Jan. 19, the First Ladies organization is doing a community service event about increasing positivity on campus. The movie “Selma” will be shown from 6-9 p.m. Jan. 20 in the Ron Houston Center for Performing Arts. The last event of MLK week will be from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 21, in the East Room of the Station where the Black Student Union is hosting a Juneteenth celebration.

\$2.4 million allocated to the University for student aids, grants

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Reporter | @sidney_lowry

The U.S. Department of Education announced a new relief fund under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Jan. 14 and allocated almost \$7.9 million to Northwest.

The allocation table from the U.S. Department of Education shows that almost \$2.4 million will be given to students through grants and the other nearly \$5.5 million will be used for institutional purposes.

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund has a second version passed for 2021. The first version of this fund was proposed last year and had almost \$2.4 million allocated for student aid for Northwest students. For this new act, there is more money allocated to institutional use.

The new act puts emphasis on how this money is supposed to be used for students with exceptional need for the grant money, and that some of the funds from the institutional portion can be used for more grants to students.

Director of Financial Assistance Charles Mayfield said most of that money allocated in 2020 was spent on refunding students when the University closed the campus in March 2020.

“When campus closed, students

were refunded for their unused housing and meal plans through the vast majority of the institutional funds,” Mayfield said.

The excess funds not used in refunding were provided to Pell Grant-eligible students and HEERF-eligible students in amounts ranging anywhere from \$450 to \$850. Ten students in summer 2020 received the same grants, ranging from \$450 to \$1,500.

Of the \$7.9 million from the 2021 CRRSA Act, a minimum of \$2.4 million is expected to be spent on emergency financial aid grants to students who have been impacted by COVID-19.

Mayfield said that because the act came out a week ago, Northwest will determine where the funds will be granted within the next two weeks. He also mentioned the rules that come along with where the money can be spent will be more flexible.

There are two parts to the funding of this CRRSA Act: student aid and institutional needs. All of the funds available for students have to be put toward the students directly, but the institutional funds can be put toward revenue loss, staff training, payroll and more.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](https://www.nwmissouri.edu/news)





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‘Occupy Valk’ teach-in series to return

KENDRICK CALFEE
News Editor | @calfee_kc

For a while now, Northwest faculty have wanted to share their research and academic backgrounds relating to systemic oppression reflected in today’s culture. Last semester, the Occupy Valk series was born to accomplish that goal and begin a non-partisan teach-in about issues in America.

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences is continuing the series, with the first installment Jan. 21. Topics of political science, geography and criminology will be featured by experts in their respective fields throughout the series. Each issue brought up will be shared through historical context with questions and discussion held at the end of each lecture.

All lecture topics this semester are aimed at broadening the conversation from racial injustice to that of gender and ableism, though race will still be a part of the overall discussion.

Associate professor of humanities Dawn Gilley serves as chair of the department. In an email to The Missourian, she shared why the series was important to the department faculty.

“I think it is impossible to understate the lack of contextual understanding by the general public of the issues our society is currently facing,” Gilley wrote. “The more people understand the connections of past to present, the more people will be able to effect change and change is what we desperately need right now.”

Gilley also said perspective can help one separate fact from fiction



Northwest instructor Matt Johnson gives a presentation to students and faculty members on the right to vote in Valk in September. Johnson gave the historical background on how the U.S. has changed who can vote.

at times when fiction seems to be winning out. In this endeavor, Gilley said, the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is well positioned to help through their academic training in hopes of providing context.

“We chose the ‘occupy’ and ‘teach-in’ models specifically to highlight injustice in all its forms because of the historical context of civil rights and because we see such injustice on the Northwest campus as well as in the greater Maryville community,” Gilley said

in an email.

For Gilley and the lecturers, that goal remains — to help to cultivate a better understanding of issues at hand and promote change for the better.

Since its beginning, Occupy Valk gathered a large following, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first lecture of last semester brought 30 socially distant in-person viewers and another 20-40 live stream participants. The lectures posted online from last semester garnered about 4,000 views.

This semester there is a plan to livestream from another classroom that would allow enough space to socially distance if enough people are interested in attending in person. The plan, as of Jan. 18, is that all installments will be held in Valk 118 and virtually via the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Facebook page.

The first presenter in this semester’s series will feature assistant professor of political science Jessica Gracey on the topic, “How the Suburbs Became White and Why

It’s a Problem.”

Gracey, presenting on Jan. 21, said she will discuss the government’s role in segregating metropolitan areas. She will go over programs that encouraged — and sometimes mandated — racial segregation in housing that created overwhelmingly white suburbs and predominantly Black urban areas.

“These racist policies haven’t existed for many decades, but the impact still lingers and I’ll also talk about that — how racial segregation in housing has also led to segregated schools and a racial wealth gap,” Gracey said in an email.

Gilley also made note of two lecturers whose topics and perspectives may be different than what some students expect at a teach-in series.

The first is assistant professor of political science Bronson Herrera’s conservative lens in “But Wait I’m Conservative”: The Natural Law Approach to Social Justice. The second is assistant professor of political science Luke Campbell’s lecture on “Can Political Violence Be Justified” and its relevance now following the events of Jan. 6, at the U.S. Capitol.

Gilley commended her colleagues for engaging with students and the public on difficult and controversial topics, especially doing so amid a pandemic. Now is a time, she said, so few campuses in the country can say they have continued a lecture series, let alone begin a new one.

The complete schedule for the series can be found via the flyer below provided by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Four candidates file for Council race as two members depart

KENDRICK CALFEE
News Editor | @calfee_kc

Maryville’s City Council has two empty seats up for grabs in April, as councilmen Matt Johnson and Jason McDowell both chose to not run again.

Four people met the Jan. 19 filing deadline to run for those vacant seats: Ashlee Hendrix, John McBride, Dannen Merrill and Tim Jackson. Each of the candidates have made appearances at the past few City Council meetings where Maryville’s governing body has faced criticism from a group of citizens.

McDowell, who also serves as Northeast Nodaway’s elementary principal, was first elected to the City Council in April 2015. In 2016, he was appointed mayor

and served for two more years before being re-elected in 2018 for another three-year term. McDowell said he chose not to run again in 2021 to allow fresh eyes and voices to take on the city’s issues. Now, he will look at other ways to serve the community.

“I’m gonna look for some fresh opportunities, and would like to find some ways to volunteer in some capacity at the University as well,” McDowell said.

McDowell, a Northwest alumnus, said he is proud of what the city has been able to accomplish while he served on the City Council, recalling the Fourth Street Improvement Project and the recent opening of the new R. Keith Wood Maryville Public Safety Facility.

Other highlights of McDowell’s tenure include winning awards for

fiscally responsible budgets while completing major projects and working with Mozingo Lake Recreation Park to open the Watson 9.

“That’s probably what I’m most proud of — just making sure that everybody’s tax payer dollars are used responsibly and we have something to show for it,” McDowell said.

Councilman Johnson shared a lot of the same accomplishments during his time on City Council. For Johnson, it was the public safety side of things — and the work of multiple local government bodies working together for 911 consolidation — that will continue to put a smile on his face for years to come.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



Councilmen Jason McDowell (left) and Matthew Johnson (right) are sworn into Maryville’s City Council in a Northwest Missourian file photo from April 2017. McDowell, the city’s former mayor, and Johnson, a history instructor at Northwest, both declined to seek the office again this election cycle.

Worship in Maryville

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Jan. 21

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Jan. 12

There is a closed investigation of a liquor law violation at South Complex.

There are three closed investigations of liquor law violations at Franken Hall.

Jan. 15

There are three closed investigations of drug possession at Dieterich Hall.

There is an open investigation for harassment.

Jan. 17

There is a closed investigation of a liquor law violation at Lot 42.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Jan. 11

There is an ongoing investigation for a stolen motor vehicle on the 400 Block of South Main Street.

A summons was issued to **Arnold E. Roebkes**, 60, for trespassing on the 1200 Block of South Main Street.

Jan. 13

There was an accident on the 600 Block of North Main Street between **Wajid B. Mizra**, 26, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and **Claire E. Murrell**, 21. A citation was issued to **Mizra** for failure to yield.

Mason C. Dumas, 18, of Oak Grove, Missouri, was involved in an accident on the 1200 Block of North Main Street.

There was an accident on the 1700 Block of East 1st Street between **Sydney E. Neas**, 20, and **Connor R. Chubick**, 21.

Jan. 14

A summons was issued to **Arnold E. Roebkes**, 60, for disorderly conduct on the 200 Block of West 7th Street.

VACCINE

CONTINUED FROM A1

Between the delay in the health department’s ability to request more vaccines and the unexpected change in state’s allocation of vaccines, Patterson’s predictions of vaccine availability are more evident.

“We’ll see — in a couple weeks, maybe it will start to look better,” Patterson said.

Despite Patterson’s concerns with vaccine availability, he said he is glad to see students attending classes in person.

As of Jan. 16, the latest available data by time of publication, there are 70 current cases in the county and the seven-day rolling average is seven.

There have been 2,477 total COVID-19 cases in the county and 21 deaths.

Also as of Jan. 16, there are 14 current cases at Northwest and there have been a total of 792 coronavirus cases at the University.

Regardless of the statistics, Patterson preached the need to take precautions, but also the importance of going to school, rather than learning through a screen.

“I don’t think we can stay home,” Patterson said. “I mean, what else are we going to do?”

MCCOY

CONTINUED FROM A1

“She was my rainbow girl,” Brenda McCoy said. “Morgan would always run next door to get the neighbors to tell them there was a rainbow, and to tell them that they needed to take a picture of it.”

Years later, even her college friends knew this part of Morgan McCoy — a ray of light in the lives of those she encountered.

Following Morgan McCoy’s funeral service, Brenda McCoy recalls getting card after card describing the rainbow girl she loved.

“She was just somebody that really enjoyed life and cared for everybody,” Brenda McCoy said.

Alana Hollingsworth, Morgan McCoy’s Sigma Kappa little, spent this year’s anniversary of her friend’s death listening to their favorite songs. She remembered back to the long night drives around Northwest’s campus and Mazingo when they would listen to “Praying” by Keshia on repeat.

Hollingsworth also decided that it was time to add to the collection of tattoos she had gotten in remembrance of Morgan McCoy. This anniversary she added a butterfly piece and imagined all of the tattoos the two would have gotten together.

CONDUCT

CONTINUED FROM A1

As Baker, a white man who has headed Northwest’s Student Affairs unit for a decade, scrolled through the tweets and heard directly from underrepresented students in meetings throughout the summer and fall, he went through a sort of professional reckoning, one that mirrors the experience of the University as a whole, one that has led to change.

“A lot of people (on Twitter) talked about their experiences at Northwest over the last 20 years, and said, ‘I reported this to someone, and nothing happened,’” Baker said, his voice moving away from the light-hearted tone he tends to project. “I’ve been here for 27 years. I’ve been the VP for 10 years. Half the stuff that was commented happened within the sphere of Student Affairs, and I never heard 90% of it.”

“As a leader,” he added, “that’s terrifying.”

The policy update itself, which specifically altered Article III of Northwest’s Student Code of Conduct, was largely the easy part for Baker and the University. Much of the amendment simply clarifies what speech can be punished by Northwest, a public University, by summarizing the protections and limitations

of the First Amendment while consolidating a number of policies that were already written in the school’s Title IX, Title VI and University Police Department handbooks.

The most substantive change, Baker said, relates to speech and conduct that “materially” disrupts the University’s ability to function. More critically, though, the policy disallows conduct that purposefully disrupts any single student’s involvement in University courses or activities.

But while the update slightly broadens what might be considered a violation of the University’s conduct policy in regards to speech, its phrasing still places strenuous requirements on proving any violation took place at all.

When determining whether an action violates the new policy, the University must first determine if the conduct in question was “made with the purpose and effect of causing a material and disruption of an individual’s participation in the University’s educational program and activities” — a threshold Baker said could be hard to meet.

“It’s still a fairly high standard,” Baker said. “But it is broader in terms of — ‘It’s not just what you said; this is now about how it impacted me.’”

The updated policy also provides another key point of clarification in re-

gard to when and where the University’s Code of Conduct applies — which was an area of contention last summer as Northwest navigated its way through the circumstances regarding the insensitive video, circumstances that prompted University President John Jasinski to ask in a June 4 interview with the Missourian, “Where do you want us to draw the line?”

The line, now, has been clearly drawn in Article III, Section B of the Student Code of Conduct, which applies to conduct on Northwest’s campus, at University sponsored activities “and to off-campus conduct that adversely affects a member of the University community,” according to the policy. Additionally, the policy addresses when a prospective student officially enters the University’s jurisdiction.

“If you look at — based off everything that happened over the course of the summer — being able to have some expectations that are placed upon students the moment they’re admitted into Northwest, I think is important,” said Justin Mallett, Northwest’s associate provost for Diversity and Inclusion. “That expectation as a Bearcat is gonna be expected from our current students and future students from here on out.”

In fact, students now submit to Northwest’s conduct rules the mo-

ment they apply for admission, according to the written policy, and the rules stay in place until the students are physically awarded their degree or otherwise withdraw from the University. Mallett acknowledged that the change, at least in part, was due to the circumstances surrounding the insensitive video that loomed over Northwest throughout the summer months, which featured a student who had yet to attend summer orientation, much less an actual class.

The amended conduct policy was one of the specific changes called for in the turbulent aftermath of Northwest’s decision to admit the student involved in the video. Among a hoard of students and alumni who called on the University to specifically address hate speech in its Student Code of Conduct was Pamela Westbrook-Hodge, Northwest’s Black Alumni President who helped edit the University’s initial statement, and who posted a statement to the chapter’s Facebook group in June saying policy changes “MUST” be made.

And while the University has framed the amended conduct policy as the answer to such calls, it doesn’t go as far to protect students against hate speech as many activists had originally hoped — largely because it can’t.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong points to fire damage in a jail cell where the fire started Jan. 14. The fire and smoke damage ruined many systems the jail had in place including a T.V. monitor and security cameras.

Jail fire forces inmates to evacuate

MADELINE MAPES
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

An intentionally lit fire erupted in the annex of the Nodaway County Jail Jan. 14, forcing guards and prisoners to evacuate.

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong said the fire was started by an unnamed inmate being held on previous charges in the annex, an area where prisoners are held when first taken into custody before being introduced into the general jail population. No injuries have been reported, and as of Jan. 19, the fire is still under investigation.

Strong said two guards on duty at the jail spotted the fire on the monitors in the control room. Strong and two other deputies were working that night when they were alerted of the fire.

“When we got into the jail, the control room already had smoke in

it,” Strong said.

Strong noted that the entire event was captured on video that could be seen on the monitors of the control room.

The sheriff also said when he and the two deputies saw smoke on the monitors coming from the annex they immediately went to evacuate the room. Once they emptied the annex, jail staff continued to evacuate the general population of the county jail out of their designated rooms.

“It took us about eight to nine minutes to empty all of the inmates out,” Strong said.

The Maryville Forum reported 20 inmates total were evacuated.

Strong noted Maryville Public Safety, the Northwest’s University Police Department, the Nodaway County Ambulance District and the Maryville Public Safety - Fire Division all came to the aid of

the county jail.

Phil Rickabaugh, the chief of Maryville’s fire division, said he had 15 firefighters on scene after they received notice of the fire.

Rickabaugh and his firefighters arrived at 8 p.m. after guards first noticed the fire at 7:57 p.m. The division had the fire under control by roughly 8:10 p.m. Rickabaugh said it took about an hour to get all of the smoke out of the building.

“It’s a very secure facility, so ventilating the smoke presented some challenges,” Rickabaugh said.

The fire chief also noted that due to the way the building is set up, the firefighters were able to keep a lot of the smoke away from the general population of inmates.

“Within a few more minutes, it could’ve been a whole different scenario where we would have had a lot more smoke,” Rickabaugh said.

of the 10 years he was sentenced to.

Morgan McCoy had returned to Maryville a few days early from winter break to enjoy a night out with friends whom she had missed over the break. Little did Morgan McCoy or her friends know this would be one of their last times together.

Following the tragedy, Morgan McCoy’s sorority, Sigma Kappa began to host a memorial service for her and another one of their fallen sisters, Haily Hayes. Those who attended the memorial would hold candles in honor of the two women who passed.

These days, Brenda McCoy tries to think of grief as a suitcase she has to pick up every day. Some days she feels as if it’s weighing her down, and she can’t carry it. But other days, the suitcase is a little lighter.

The colorful person that Morgan McCoy was is now reflected through the many lives she once touched.

With all the donations from Morgan McCoy’s funeral, fundraisers and T-shirt sales, Brenda McCoy decided to use that money to help out other students at Northwest. The Morgan McCoy Memorial Scholarship was given out to the first person this school year. Brenda McCoy hopes for the scholarship recipient to be a student majoring in elementary education and preferably on a work study, like Morgan McCoy.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions

on events, this year Sigma Kappa decided to host a raffle to honor Morgan McCoy and Hayes to raise money for their two philanthropies, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Speak Up Foundation.

“Hopefully this fundraiser will inform the Northwest community of the consequences of drunk driving,” Sigma Kappa’s Vice President of Alumnae Relations Megan Wintheiser said. “We want people to be safe and take precautions when choosing to drink.”

The raffle will be held Feb. 22-26 at an information booth in the J. W. Jones Student Union. Participants will be able to purchase raffle tickets and place them in a jar labeled with the philanthropy of their choice. Prizes will be given to those who win the raffle.

Morgan McCoy lives on through memories held by her friends and family, and some have even found ways to live out her legacy.

“Kind of the reason that I became a teacher was her ... just finally getting to let her know that I’m gonna graduate and that I’m finally living out our dream, and I’m becoming a teacher,” Hollingsworth said as she fought back the tears. “And that I’m sad that she can’t be here to be a teacher with me.”

I'm going to keep writing columns

ANDREW WEGLEY
Columnist
@andrewwegley



There’s this novel piece of advice repeated over and over in reporting and media classes at Northwest, and it was sent my way via email again one morning last week from a professor at the University: “If you never piss anyone off, you’re probably not doing your job.”

The email found its way to my inbox a minute shy of 11 a.m. on Thursday morning. It had been two days since I’d published a column about a local Facebook group that got more attention than it would have if the group’s members cared as little as they claim to about my opinion.

And, more direly, it had been 13 hours since I was made aware of a threat posted underneath my column in the Maryville and Nodaway County Resident Council — one that prompted the email dispatched from a longtime journalism professor.

That sentiment, however prevalent as it might be in today’s media culture, is one more suitable for a yesteryear when threats toward the media were perhaps more often empty.

It’s anyone’s guess what Brent Hendrix might have truly intended when he first made a threatening post toward me in a Facebook comment section, where keyboard warriors tend to do their intentionally vague work. I’m not sure whose role it is to say what Hendrix meant when he said he’d like “to get my hands on him,” referring, of course, to the 21-year-old college student who had criticized a Facebook group.

Some members of the group have decided it is, in fact, their role to decipher Hendrix’s intent.

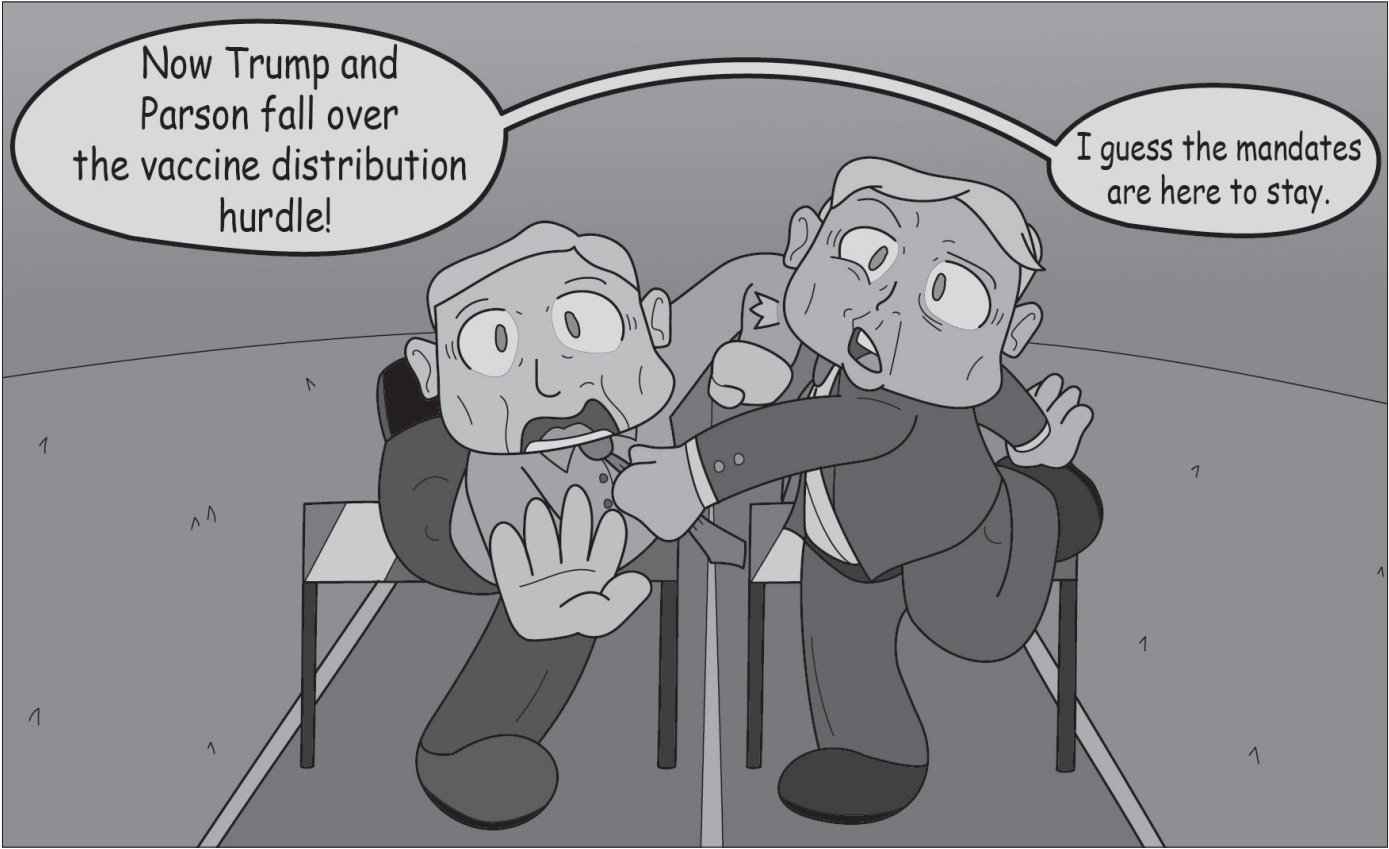
And while downplaying threats is painfully on brand for a group of citizens who are largely up in arms about having to wear a piece of cloth over their mouths as a deadly, invisible virus that has killed more than 2 million people globally floats through the air, it is exactly this dismissive behavior that allows threats to escalate — which, of course, is what happened.

“This is my community. Not yours. Im serious,” Hendrix told me on Twitter, in one of more than five threatening messages he sent before I was advised to cease contact with him. “One more article regarding myself. My community. Anything resembling it. I promise you. You will not be able to use a keyboard ever again.”

So, to the people of the Maryville and Nodaway County Resident Council: where are the “civic minded residents” that supposedly make up your toxic Facebook group, according to its biography? Where is the unity you tout?

In the few days I’ve been a member of this group — which I only ever requested to join in an effort to battle against blatant misinformation posted underneath my column — I’ve encountered far fewer civic minded residents than I have right-wing agitators who would rather defend Hendrix than encounter, or even acknowledge, their own hypocrisy.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Maryville’s most popular mandate needs extension

Maryville’s mask mandate needs to be extended. That very sentence will send some people into a long, poorly worded tirade about how masks are an infringement of rights — they aren’t — and how there’s no evidence they work — there is.

It would be easy in this editorial to list ad nauseam the same reasons masks work that have been written previously in this paper and from every major news outlet since March of last year. However, we need the mask mandate to be extended because despite a vaccine being ready and available, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson and the Donald Trump White House have done a horrific job of distributing it, which is on par with the rest of their respective handlings of the pandemic.

As it became clearer to health experts and most of us around the country that the coronavirus wasn’t going to disappear in a few months, we all put our proverbial chips in the vaccine basket. Less than a year after the first COVID-19 case was reported on U.S. soil, the vaccine was being distributed to long-term care facilities and medical workers.

Trump and Parson each had months upon months to plan vaccine distribution. It’s not like the process of the making of the vaccine was being kept secret; every week there were new updates on

what stage the various virus inoculations were in.

In December the outgoing president decided to pass on the opportunity to secure more Pfizer vaccine doses for the U.S. Don’t worry though. A spokesperson for the Trump administration said that they didn’t buy them because they didn’t know if the 95% effective clinically tested vaccine would work and didn’t want to waste money — just like they didn’t want to waste money on giving us more stimulus checks so people could afford frivolous expenditures like food and rent.

Since then it seemed to be a vicious cycle of optimistic forecasts of vaccine distributions followed by retractions and empty promises. Trump recently promised to release a stockpile of vaccines to the states, but it turns out the stockpile which wasn’t much of a stockpile had already been sent out.

Missouri is having the same issue on a smaller scale. In a press release Jan. 14 prior to Trump’s stockpile debacle, the Show-Me State executive announced that the state was officially entering Tier 1 of Phase 1B of the vaccine distribution and Tier 2 of that phase on Jan.18. Meaning that teachers, other essential workers and the elderly were next in line to roll up their sleeves. However,

later on, the same press release said that only 27% of Phase 1A candidates had received a single dose of the vaccine, which is rather minimal.

Missouri is getting half the amount of doses expected and Tom Patterson, director of Nodaway County Health Department, told local residents to be patient because there is no real timetable for ordering or distributing more inoculations locally at this time.

So once again we will need the Maryville City Council to make the wise and somehow unpopular decision to extend the mandate until more and more people can be immunized against the virus.

There will certainly be metaphorical and perhaps physical gnashing of teeth if the council decides to do the right thing. Members of a certain Facebook group will begin talking about the Constitution and seeking to overthrow the elected officials who are listening to health experts rather than QAnon.

The position the Council is in right now is not an enviable one, but sometimes you have to protect people from their own ignorance. They need to extend the mask mandate because it will save lives, money and perhaps will show people that sound decisions can’t be overruled by fear-mongering.

YOUR VIEW:

Do you believe Maryville should extend the mask mandate? Why?

Blake McCoy
Senior
Communication &
Public Relations



“Yes, because COVID is still a problem and vaccines are not really available yet. Wearing a mask is easy and proven to work.”

Jamien Bartlow
Senior
Early Childhood
Education



“Yes, because we have a lot of students attending our school that could easily pass around COVID. Masks are just a small part of what we can do to keep the people in this town safe.”

Vineeth Donthamsetty
Graduate Student
Masters in Information
Systems



“Yes, of course, as COVID-19 has not been under control and the vaccine is not given to all the public. Masks should become a mandate in this case. Also, in school there will be a bigger impact of spreading this type of virus.”

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat likes country music now

Country music has never been my cup of tea or glass of sweet tea, I guess. Get it? Because red-necks drink sweet tea. Anyway, I don’t usually like it mainly for the fact that it generally doesn’t sound good. I am somewhat of a stickler when it comes to music taste as I prefer it to be pleasant to my ears. But for some reason now, I have recently gotten into country music and I hate myself for it.

Maybe it happened because I am in a vulnerable state due to the

exhaustion from the not-yet full week of classes I’ve endured, but George Strait is really starting to hit different. Is that, like, how listening to country music works? Do you need to be in an emotionally vulnerable state to relate to a middle-aged white man talking about his truck?

It all started because of the disgusting hodgepodge that is my daily mix on Spotify. Apparently, Morgan Wallen and Khalid share some similarities in their styles — they both sing — and I ended up

going down a rabbit hole.

I’m actually currently in a full-tilt yee-haw downward spiral. I haven’t started to chew because I have an interest in being considered attractive in the future, but I have begun packing my lip with food while eating. It’s kinda fun, honestly.

Do I get my surrender flag in the mail automatically or do I need to order it? And where do I hang it? Backglass or living room? I am made of questions at this point, and Parler is down

right now so I can’t answers.

One of the four pillars of my personality was that I didn’t listen to country music, and now that pillar is a pile of rubble. My whole personality and outlook on life have changed. Maybe I’ll buy a truck and care about corn. Anyway, I’m going to listen to “Amarillo by Morning” for the seventh time today. Yee-yee.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

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New seasons lie ahead for esports teams

WESLEY MILLER
Sports Reporter I @wesleymiller360

Just like all of the other athletic programs at Northwest, esports is preparing for another semester.



Seth Bishop, vice president of the esports club, said the team is not really working on anything specifically, aside from getting back in a rhythm and practicing.

“I just mean, like, getting our schedule down and making sure we practice well and efficiently,” Bishop said.

Northwest junior Brennen LaMastres said the team’s practices start next week, giving the esports teams their first practices together since returning from the holiday break. LaMastres said it sometimes takes a while to get back into the flow of playing.

LaMastres coaches the League of Legends, Rainbow Six Siege, Super Smash Bros. and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive teams, leaving him in charge of making sure numerous athletes get back into shape.

“It’s usually very smooth getting back into it,” LaMastres said. “Sometimes we have to address a couple of issues, especially if there’s a roster change or a noticeable difference in a player.”

In every athletics, a break in between practices and games can cause athletes to be “rusty” getting back into it. LaMastres said that they generally have it easy as far as staying in tune with their skills.

“There’s always a concern about losing a touch during a long break,” LaMastres said. “But the fact that the teammates are good friends, too, usually helps that. In the pro-

gram’s group chat, people are always asking if anyone else wants to get a few games in.”

Even with staying in touch and getting games in during break, regaining confidence and comfort can still take a little time.

“The regaining of comfort is more of a thing that stays in the back of your mind until the first game of the season, and then it kind of just goes away because we’re so confident in our skills,” LaMastres said. “We always want to be confident whenever we compete, not comfortable.”

On the program’s Twitter page, there are multiple posts focused on recruiting players for the League of Legends team.

“We have just been looking for a few extra players because we’re close to having two full rosters that can compete,” Bishop said. “We’ll obviously have our main roster with the best players, so they can have the best chances to win, but our second roster will still have hungry players who will be getting better as they play together.”

LaMastres said that they had a good season last year during competitions, which included a win over the Iowa Hawkeyes, so they wanted to split into two teams to have the chance at more success.

“That’s a pretty big deal, because we’re suddenly going from a five-player roster to 10-player rosters, both with management and actual competition,” LaMastres said. “I noticed a couple of players really shining in our games, so we decided to move them up a competitive league and try to fill spots for that higher league, all while allowing people to gain experience in the lower leagues and hopefully try to



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | FILE

In a file photo from The Missourian, two students compete in an EA Sports Madden NFL 21 tournament Sept. 14 in the esports lab on the third floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union.

make it to the more competitive league.”

The program announced Jan. 8 via Twitter that it joined the College Call of Duty League for the 2020-21 season. The players that are in this league are Zach Kush, Jacob Hoyle, Josh Paulus, Noah Gorman, Ian Haakinson and Drake Ramsay, the team’s captain.

“We have a very dedicated CoD captain who just found the league and let us know about it,” Bishop said. “After that, we just put the money towards the entry fee so they can play.”

The Counter-Strike team will have its first game of a 10-week season Jan. 19 against Texas Tech, in which the Bearcats defeated the Red Raiders, giving the them another victory against a Division I university.

The League of Legends and Rocket League teams will start their eight-week seasons Feb. 17 and people can check the Northwest esports’ Twitter page for updates on times and stream links.

Their Counter Strike: Global Offensive team has been scrimmaging against other colleges so far, and LaMastres said they look good.

“We expect to at least make the playoffs this season,” LaMastres said.

Like the Counter Strike: Global Offensive team, the League of Legends teams are expecting to make a run in the postseason as well.

“A weird tie-break situation left us tied with teams that did make playoffs, but we didn’t ourselves,” LaMastres said. “So, we’re prepared to do the salty run back and see how far we can get.”

LaMastres said that despite having a weak season last semester, the Rainbow Six Siege team had a couple of roster swaps, and the Bearcats are aiming to start strong this season.

The Smash Bros. team has not had the luck the other teams have had with finding a way to compete yet, mostly because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’re in an awkward spot where we want to compete, but we just can’t,” LaMastres said.

The team is hopeful it can manage to find a couple of online tournaments and are still practicing every Wednesday and Thursday.

Aside from a few challenges, esports is ready to start competing, with the hope of making a push towards a national championship for each team.

INSTINCT CONTINUED FROM A8

We’ve had games where we’ve been up 20 and let the other team claw back in, but when we get up like that we’ve got to find a way to close the game.”

Hawkins attributed the close games to the Bearcats’ offense not clicking yet. It’s nothing Hawkins is worried about, as he noted this year’s squad has only played nine games together. Despite the offense not clicking, as Hawkins said, Northwest is third in the MIAA in scoring offense, tallying 79 points per contest.

Whatever the reason might be, McCollum is hoping the Bearcats learn from their early season struggles during the later portion of second halves.

“I thought when we got them down, we coasted a little bit, and we, once again, stopped wanting to compete,” McCollum said about the wins over Fort Hays and Kearney. “Hopefully we learned our lesson.”

McCollum and company will get a chance to find that instinct

with a pair of games in Bearcat Arena this week.

Northwest will host Newman Jan. 21, along with Central Oklahoma Jan. 23.

Both Newman and Central are among the bottom half of the MIAA, a stark difference between Bearcats and the two programs they’re set to host. Despite that, the Bearcats aren’t overlooking any opponent.

“We’ll get up for everybody,” McCollum said. “Everybody can beat us.”

The Newman Jets, McCollum said, are a well-coached team that will give Northwest everything it has, just as he expects the Bronchos to do Saturday — taking each team’s best shot is something that comes with the territory of being the No. 3 team in the country.

More so from Central than Newman, McCollum and Hawkins are expecting to face some of the best athletes in the country.

“(Central) is as probably as talented a team as there is in the league, if not the country,” McCollum said. “I mean, they’re high-level talent. They got some dudes.

... They got it all. It’ll be a tough game, so will Newman.”

“Last year we went down there, and they threw five guys at us all the time that were fresh bodies and just freak athletes,” Hawkins said. “Some of that, you have to expose that athleticism by controlling the pace of the game and taking that athleticism away from them. ... They’ll both be good MIAA games for us.”

When the Bearcats take the court to face Newman Thursday, they’ll be hoping to add to a newly-founded win streak, one that started with the Jan. 9 blowout win over Emporia State following the loss to Washburn.

McCollum is hoping his team finds that killer instinct, and leaves no window for the Jets to hang around.

“You can just tell a vibe. It’s just a vibe that you get,” McCollum said about that trait used to describe a team or player’s ability to close out games down the stretch. “It hasn’t felt like that in many of the games — and part of it might be COVID, part of it might be the amount of success, etc., those are all excuses — but we need to get it.”

STUNG CONTINUED FROM A8

While Jobe finished with a game-high 29 points, the Hornets’ offense was struggling to find the bottom of the basket. Emporia was held to 35% shooting from the field in the first half with six players not scoring more than 6 points.

“We were really into the game defensively, and that’s one thing I thought in the first half of Kearney; we were really into it. It’s a good sign that we’re playing well defensively,” Meyer said. “Jobe is as good of a player as there is in this league at the point guard position. ... She made plays at the end of the game when it was winning time, and that’s what she does.”

After going 1-6 from three in the first half, Haggard put the Bearcats on her back. Haggard started the quarter going 3-for-3 from beyond the arc, including an off-balance shot that pushed the Bearcats to a 38-31 lead with four minutes remaining in the third quarter.

“Going into halftime, I missed four or five (shots) probably, so I kind of had to reset my mind. The coaches have a lot of confidence in me shooting, so I just had to step up, and it was a close game,” Haggard said. “A lot



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior guard Diego Bernard floats toward the rim for a layup in the first half of Northwest men’s basketball’s 92-71 win over Emporia State Jan. 9 at Bearcat Arena. Bernard scored 19 points in the contest, including 14 in the first half.

of games I don’t get that open, so I think once I knocked down a couple obviously that raises your confidence a little.”

As the Bearcats built its lead to 10 points, their largest of the night, senior guard Kylie Coleman fell to the ground going after a rebound, resulting in her wincing in pain as she grabbed her left knee.

While no official word was released on her condition after the matchup, Coleman was helped off the court and wasn’t able to put any pressure on her left leg. She didn’t return the rest of the contest.

“That hurts big time. I think it kind of gave us a sick flashback to what happened with Emma (Atwood) at practice. There for a second, kind of everything stops, and that’s all you can think about. She’s a crucial player on this team, and you know we care about her more than anything,” Haggard said. “That definitely hurt just from a personal standpoint, but as far as basketball-wise goes, she was making things happen on the floor.”

Coleman, who tallied 10 points before the injury, was a key factor in helping Northwest hold onto the lead for 22 minutes of game time. Once she left, the wheels began to fall off for the Bearcats.

Heading into the final quarter, Northwest was stopped offensively and was outscored 18-4 by the Hornets. The ’Cats scored seven baskets in the final 20 minutes, unable to find a consistent shooter.

“We struggled. We were pretty gassed there in the fourth quarter. Obviously, at this point, with the people we have out, to lose Kylie in that situation, it’s tough,” Meyer said. “We just didn’t have enough scoring at that point, just her being a threat out on the floor.”

Emporia, the team that knocked Northwest out of the MIAA tournament last season, secured its 14th straight win against the Bearcats. Emporia moved to fifth in the MIAA rankings with the win and the Bearcats fell to ninth with the loss.

“We told them in the locker room that you get a chance to move on pretty quick, so you can’t sit with it for too long,” Meyer said. “Obviously, they’re a really good team. It’s been a long time since Northwest Missouri State has beaten Emporia State, and we were right there. Obviously, we want to win the game, but we’re right there.”

The Bearcats will have another chance to get back on track Jan. 21 when they host Newman in Bearcat Arena.

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Boys gain confidence after key win

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers

Maryville boys basketball started its new season Dec. 11, looking to surpass a 55-44 loss to Central (Kansas City) in the Class 3 District 16 Tournament to end last year.

Winning their first three games of the 2020-21 season, the Spoofhounds looked to be on track. This seemed hard to accomplish, as they lost guard Tate Oglesby, who led the team in points per game last year, due to graduation.

Since Dec. 18, the 'Hounds have lost four of their last six, a slump coach Matt Stoecklein knew was highly possible, but was hoping to avoid.

The 2018 Class 3A Iowa State champion Glenwood Rams (9-2) traveled an hour and 40 minutes Jan. 16 to the 'Hound Pound, hoping to add to the Spoofhounds' losing streak.

Stoecklein and company had other ideas, as Maryville (6-4) began its road to staying above .500 and building its new identity. The Spoofhounds pulled away at the right time, securing a 78-70 victory.

"It was a great win versus a really good team. It proved that we can do it," Stoecklein said. "Some of these other games that we lost could've been wins just as easily had we done some of the things we did in this game."

A pivotal point in the game was clearing out the floor to allow guards to use their speed to drive and kick out to open shooters. Glenwood's

UP NEXT

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forward Grant Von Essen not only brought height at 6 feet, two inches, but physicality down low.

Maryville also brought its practice techniques to the game. Stoecklein had been preaching the importance of free-throw shooting, a factor in close games such as this one. As a team, the Spoofhounds went 18-for-23 from the charity stripe, with sophomore guard Caden Stoecklein going a perfect 5-for-5, and no other player missing more than two free throws on six attempts.

The Spoofhounds are still experimenting with rotations and player abilities, which keeps opposing teams guessing on who might have an impact come game time. Matt Stoecklein was impressed with the defensive effort from senior guard Caleb Kreizinger.

"Caleb's confidence, I mean, he's really come on. I don't think he scored a ton of points, but he guarded their best player for almost the entire game," Matt Stoecklein said. "Their best player still scored 22 points, but he shoots a lot, but Caleb was relentless on his defensive effort working on that kid. That was super exciting to see him take on that challenge."

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School senior Marc Gustafson jumps through two Glenwood players at their home game Jan. 16. The Spoofhounds won 78-70 leaving them now 6-4 in their division.

'Hounds keep hot hand amid tough schedule

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter I @curly_corbs

It'd be an understatement to say tough battles on the road have characterized the games Maryville girls basketball (12-1) has encountered in recent weeks. Additionally, the Spoofhounds managed to navigate an unusually dense number of games in one week.

Maryville coach Quentin Albrecht said he's proud of the way his team played through the heavy schedule of talented teams.

"I think this is a big confidence builder," Albrecht said. "We went into this week and played Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday — it's like an NBA schedule."

Three of the four teams jammed into Maryville's week were familiar foes. East Buchanan (4-7) and Glenwood (9-2) both added to the Spoofhounds' loss column a year ago, while St. Pius X (9-1) is a recurring conference roadblock. Despite the level of difficulty, the 'Hounds managed to avenge two losses given to them last season and earn a conference win.

"The big game for us was the St. Pius game — a conference game," Albrecht said. "That was very important to us. Any time you can come in and beat a St. Pius team down on their floor, that's a big deal."

Albrecht said his 'Hounds had to work for a win over Pius after witnessing a scoring drought for a little more than six minutes, one that stretched from the end of the third quarter and persisted into the beginning of the fourth. However,



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School freshman Ava Dumke marks an opponent during a home game against Glenwood Jan. 16. The ladies next home game is against Bishop LeBlond Thursday, Jan. 21.

Maryville found its rhythm via a 6-2 run to squeak by with a 42-38 win.

Senior guard Serena Sundell acknowledged that St. Pius X would likely be the biggest conference competition her team will face this season.

"There's definitely a lot of adversity that comes with playing Pius on their court," Sundell said. "Pius is always a fourth-quarter game. We knew that we weren't just going to walk in and take it from them, so we did what we needed to do."

After winning a defensive brawl against Pius, Sundell didn't expect

what happened in the 'Hound Pound that following Saturday. In contrast to the St. Pius X game, defense was scarce in Maryville's matchup against Iowan powerhouse, Glenwood.

For the second time this season, Maryville scored more than 90 points in a game with a 94-75 victory over Glenwood Jan. 16.

"They were the No. 1 team, Class 4 in Iowa, so everyone knew that (Glenwood) would be really good," Sundell said. "We just came in knowing we had nothing to lose. We were going to take shots we have with

confidence and take every opportunity they give to us. It was just a super fun game."

The total amount of points scored in the game was a school record for Maryville, and Albrecht attributed the high-scoring affair to the type of play synonymous with Glenwood's program.

"Glenwood is known for its upstyle tempo," Albrecht said. "Generally speaking, I probably wouldn't be excited about the team giving up 75 points, but it was a lot to do with the pace of the game. It's the type of

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MHS @ Cameron Tourney
Jan. 25-30
Cameron, Missouri

game where there's about double the amount of possessions you'd see in a regular game."

This season, Glenwood is averaging 72 points per game. Albrecht expected this type of play, and the girls proved they could match the pace and do it even better. He said this game spoke to the team's versatility that Sundell stated in a phone call earlier in the season.

"When we can get on (a rhythm), we're going to be hard to beat," Sundell said. "Even if we're not on, I think we're capable of finding different ways to score. We'll get inside the paint and give other people those opportunities to score."

The 'Hounds will need to utilize these different options for points as their schedule ceases to ease in difficulty. The team has yet to see conference foes St. Joseph Benton, Chillicothe and Cameron, who aim to dethrone last year's conference champions.

However, Albrecht is confident his team can continue its winning ways after some hard-fought games.

"I think by beating (St. Pius X) and Glenwood helps us with our confidence," Albrecht said. "We know that if we play our game, we can beat anybody put in front of us."

WALK THE TALK:

Will 'Cats ever travel to face Western?

JON WALKER
Sports Editor
@ByJonWalker



If this is your first time reading, welcome. If you've read either of the first two editions of this mailbag column, then welcome back. The main premise, per usual, is to focus on anything regarding Northwest Athletics. Whether it be a question about soccer's recruiting class in 2021, or the chances of men's basketball winning another national title, I'll answer it.

This week we had a few questions that looked at athletics off of

the court/field.

Why are student-athletes a higher priority for the COVID-19 vaccine than regular students? Shouldn't it just be high-risk people and then alphabetical?

I could be wrong, or perhaps just missing this somewhere, but I don't think student-athletes — at the moment — are prioritized over any other students at Northwest.

The CDC's plan for rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine mentions three phases before college students are even talked about, which include healthcare personnel, essential workers and the elderly. It's hard to imagine a situation in which a student-athlete would have time to work in healthcare or be an essential worker, along with being a student and competing at the same time.

And, of course, it's hard to imagine any situation in which a student-athlete would be deemed elderly.

So, based on those, I don't think student-athletes are prioritized over any other student at Northwest.

"I have heard nothing about athletes getting the vaccine first," a Northwest student-athlete said.

If that is, or ends up being the case, the only justifiable reason would be that those athletes are required to travel to compete. It's

their choice, of course, but that'd still call for them being vaccinated. Nonetheless, I haven't heard anything, nor do I expect that to be the case.

Will Northwest ever travel to St. Joseph to play Missouri Western?

Yes. No. Maybe? I'm really not sure at this point.

I mean, the matchup was supposed to happen when both teams were unbeaten back in December, and then a COVID-19 complication in the Northwest program altered that, changing the date to Jan. 19.

The No. 3 Bearcats were supposed to hit the road to face the No. 16 Griffons after two tough matchups with Fort Hays and Nebraska Kearney, until a positive COVID-19 case in Missouri Western's program effectively left the already rescheduled game to be rescheduled.

As of now, there isn't another makeup date in place. However, both teams have a mutual Thursday off in their schedules, Feb. 4. The interesting thing is that Western is supposed to travel to Maryville to face Northwest in Bearcat Arena Feb. 6. So, could we really get two Bearcats-Griffons games in a 48-hour span? It'd sure be cool if we did.

That date is really the only one I

see that would perfectly work out. Otherwise, it'll be another Tuesday game, which is the day the MIAA has apparently designated for rescheduled matchups.

But, yes, I do think the Bearcats will end up in St. Joseph at one point or another.

How exactly are scholarships divided up between each sport? What determines the amount each sport gets?

It's important to note that there are few among the thousands of athletes at the Division II level who receive a full scholarship — not everyone can hand out checks like Alabama football or Kansas basketball.

Division II mostly focuses on partial scholarships, that way student-athletes can still receive at least some aid for going to a certain school.

For example, basketball programs at the Division II level, men's and women's, get 10 full scholarships to disperse to the student-athletes. Obviously, there are more than 10 people on a basketball team, so those 10 scholarships could be divvied out multiple ways, including 20 athletes getting half-scholarships. Hopefully that example starts to make things make sense.

It's for sure a weird concept to grasp at first, but somewhat makes

sense once you get the hang of it. Another example is football programs being allotted 36 full scholarships when there are clearly more than 36 people on a football team.

For a side note, any student-athlete that stays extra years due to eligibility being expanded for COVID-19 reasons will not count toward the program's scholarships for that season. So, a football senior returning wouldn't count toward those 36 scholarships to distribute, but they'd still receive one.

And, of course, 36 would just be the maximum. If a university didn't have the funds to provide 36 scholarships to student-athletes then it wouldn't have to.

I'd genuinely hate being in charge of scholarships, so I commend the coaches that have to deal with it on a daily basis.

It's a mess, but I hope that somewhat cleared the air. If not, I'll gladly answer further questions in next week's edition.

Walk-the-talk is a mailbag that focuses on all things Northwest Athletics. To submit a question for the next edition of the mailbag, tweet @ByJonWalker or email j.walker.missourian@gmail.com.

RUN, NORRIS, RUN



Northwest junior Jacob Norris competes in the Mel Tjeerdsma Classic Jan. 16 in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. Norris competed in the one-mile run and set a new program record in the race by finishing in 4 minutes 8 seconds and 54 milliseconds, good enough to be named the MIAA's Athlete of the Week.

Junior breaks 45-year-old record at first meet

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

Northwest track and field junior Jake Norris hadn't laced up his spikes in 322 days before the Mel Tjeerdsma Classic Jan. 16 in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. As a sophomore, Norris finished his indoor season at the MIAA Championships March 1 in Pittsburg, Kansas. He was supposed to start the outdoor season 20 days later at the Emporia State Spring Invitational in Emporia, Kansas, before COVID-19 effectively halted the world of sports. But Norris, despite the nearly year-long layoff and not training with the team for seven weeks due to holiday breaks, finished the mile-long run in 4 minutes, 8 seconds and 54 milliseconds. That time broke a program record, one that stood for 45 years before Norris crossed the finish line, previously held by John Wellerding, who set the record in 1976 with a time of 4:09.94. "We didn't expect him to do what he did," Northwest coach Brandon Masters said about Norris. "He felt good for the first couple of laps and was on the pace he thought he could run and just put it together. It was just an incredible race. It was fun to watch." Norris's previous best in the mile was 4:12.59, a mark he set at the MIAA Championships nearly a year ago. To not only break the record, but to cut that much time off without any competition in a little less than a year is as rare as it gets, Masters said. "Running a mile indoors that fast just doesn't happen very often," Masters said. "It's a huge feat. To do it Jan. 16, the first meet after a 322-day layoff from competing, is extraordinary." The Bearcats claimed gold and silver in the mile, with sophomore Reece Smith filing in behind Norris with a time of 4:09.95, a single millisecond shy of the record that stood seconds before Norris crossed the finish line ahead of him. Norris and Smith were a couple of the standout performances for the Bearcats at the home meet, including sophomore Jada Shanklin provisional-



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NW @ Northwest Open
Jan. 22-23
Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse

ly qualifying in the high jump, sophomore Delanie Dykes winning the women's one-mile run, the Northwest women claiming the top four spots in the 400-meter dash and the men's 4x400 team provisionally qualifying. Those were the outliers, but Masters said he's hoping to add to that list with the goal of having a roster deep enough to where any athlete could provisionally qualify. "We had a lot of great performances," Masters said. "We had a lot of solid performances, and we had some poor performances as well, but that's pretty much what you're going to get this time of year." Masters said once the team departed for Thanksgiving break, it was up to each athlete to stay active during their time away from campus. Athletes that did well at the first meet, Masters said, are the ones who did well over that break. The ones that didn't do so well could've been impacted by a multitude of things, Masters said. "You can blame weather and being by themselves and — there's a whole list of things — but for the most part, we're in very good shape," Masters said. "We're just not sharp yet." The Bearcats are hoping to have another successful outing Jan. 22-23 at the Northwest Open, the second of four consecutive meets Northwest will host. Masters isn't expecting another record-breaking performance, but he wasn't last week, either. Instead, he's thankful for another weekend to compete. "It's just another chance to lace up the spikes and run," Masters said. "I'm not concerned about too many people. Very few I have some question marks with, but I'm hoping those question marks will be answered this weekend by kind of averaging the two weekends."

Northwest women's basketball gets stung by Hornets

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

From the sideline, Northwest women's basketball coach Austin Meyer could be heard screaming at his offense, looking to tie the game at 51 heading into the final three minutes of the contest Jan. 19 against Emporia State in Bearcat Arena. Northwest freshman forward Jilian Fleming heard her coach and received the ball, hoping to prove that she belonged out on the court despite her inexperience at the collegiate level. Driving into the lane, Fleming took contact from the Emporia defense, and although she wasn't awarded a free throw, she made her contested layup. An eruption rose from the separated crowd at Bearcat Arena as the Bearcats (3-6) were going toe-to-toe with the Hornets, a team they haven't beat since 2009.



Northwest women's basketball senior Kylie Coleman shoots a 3-pointer against Emporia State Jan. 19. Northwest plays Newman at home Thursday, Jan. 21.

GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

UP NEXT

NW vs Newman
5:30 p.m. Jan. 21
Bearcat Arena

was kind of on me. She had two buckets back-to-back in really crucial times, so that was tough. I can't let that happen."

SEE STUNG | A6

No. 3 Bearcats search for killer instinct during two-game home stretch

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

After finishing up practice Tuesday afternoon, Ben McCollum took time to reflect on a documentary he recently watched, one about Tiger Woods and the fierce competitor he was on the golf course. McCollum namely referenced the part in the documentary that mentioned the fear factor that accompanied Woods to the golf course, specifically on Sundays, a trait that left other golfers intimidated. The Northwest men's basketball coach admires Michael Jordan for the same reason, both athletes do whatever it takes to win and try to do so in a dominant fashion. But, amid everything else he likes about the two, McCollum loves the competitive spirit that encompasses both of those professional athletes, something he hasn't seen too often from the No. 3 Bearcats this season. "We need to make sure that we're competing and have that killer instinct and have that intensity," McCollum said. "Right now, we're not playing



UP NEXT

NW vs Newman
7:30 p.m. Jan. 21
Bearcat Arena

with that killer instinct, and we need to make sure we start doing that." The Bearcats didn't compete in the Jan. 7 loss to Washburn, McCollum said, which was their first loss in more than a year. They watched a 13-point lead disappear late in the second half before eventually pulling away for a 64-51 win Jan. 14 on the road against Fort Hays. Less than 48 hours later, the Bearcats held a mere 4-point lead over Nebraska Kearney. Northwest ended up winning 73-63, but that killer instinct and ability to close games out isn't as present this year as it used to be. "I think in the past we've always had that," senior forward Ryan Hawkins said. "This year, we just haven't found that. For some reason, we just haven't had that. I think we'll find it."

SEE INSTINCT | A6